

# Initial proposals and ideas for the agri-environmental measures for the next period of Rural Development Plans

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Zālāju atjaunošana un to dažādas  
izmantošanas veicināšana

Best practices, lessons learned and future perspectives of agri-environmental measures for biodiversity conservation at the Boreal biogeographic region, Vilnius, Lithuania, 16-17 december, 2019

# Presentation plan:

- What is the current stage of development of proposal for agri-environmental measures for the next financial period?
- How environmental stakeholders are involved in the process?
- What are ideas and/or initial proposals for agri-environmental measures? Which measures will be continued? What are new proposals?
- Current challenges and open questions in the process



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# Current stage:

- Eight working groups established by the Ministry of Agriculture including working group on:
  - **Environment and Climate (E&C);**
  - **Organic farming;**
  - Cooperation;
  - Young farmers;
  - Rural space/countryside;
  - Investments;
  - Food;
  - Direct payments.



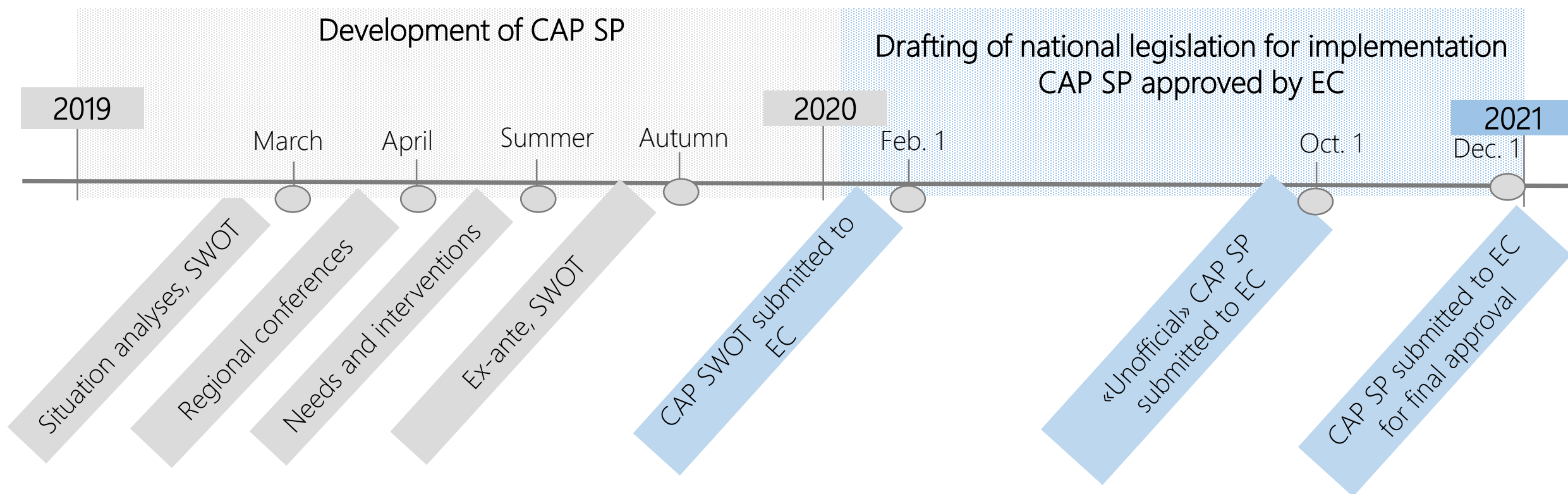


# Current stage:

- Three meetings held in group E&C: 09.05.2019, 17.07.2019, and 04.09.2019 – subgroup «Water, soil, biological diversity and landscape»;
- Meeting on grassland measures planned for January-February 2020;
- Work on the SP and SWOT ongoing since end of 2018, but little information available for «outside world»...



# Current stage:



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# Involvement of environmental stakeholders

- ENVI NGOs invited to take part in the official events linked to development of the CAP SP;
- No public information on the «internal discussions» taking place in the Agricultural Ministers «advisory council», where a limited number of agricultural NGOs have seats – no information on the meeting agendas, nor minutes of the meetings;
- «BEF Latvia» was contracted in 2018 to assess the implementation of results oriented agri-environmental measures.





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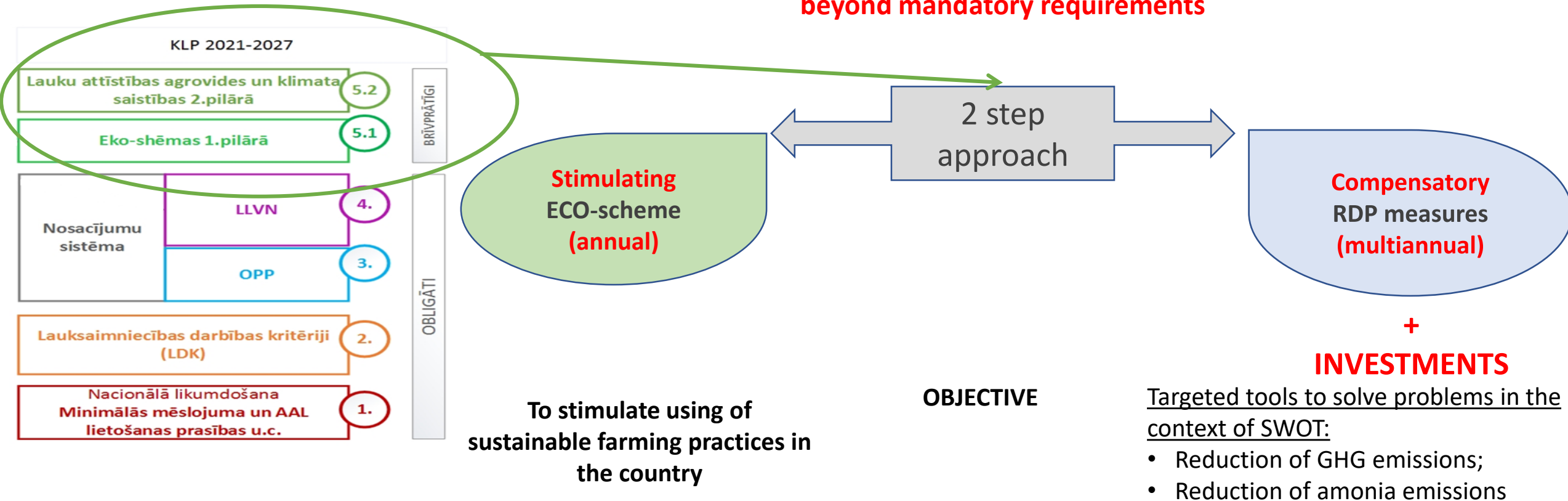


# Initial proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture for agri-environmental measures

- Background information for proposal:
  - Farmers NGOs': no cuts in total funding - Latvia has one of the lowest support rates in EU;
  - Evaluation on application of targeted agri-environmental measures in Latvia prepared by BEF (MoA procurement);
  - Proposals of Nature Conservation Agency for new RDP;
  - Comments by Environmental Advisory Council on the Latvian position on the CAP legislative proposal;
  - Position paper on the future of CAP by Latvian Ornithological Society (LOB);
  - Proposals of the project "The harmonization of knowledge in protected grassland management in Baltic region for sustaining viable ecosystems" the Nordic Council of Ministers' Grant Programme for Nordic-Baltic Non-Governmental Organisations'.



# Architecture of climate and environment measures

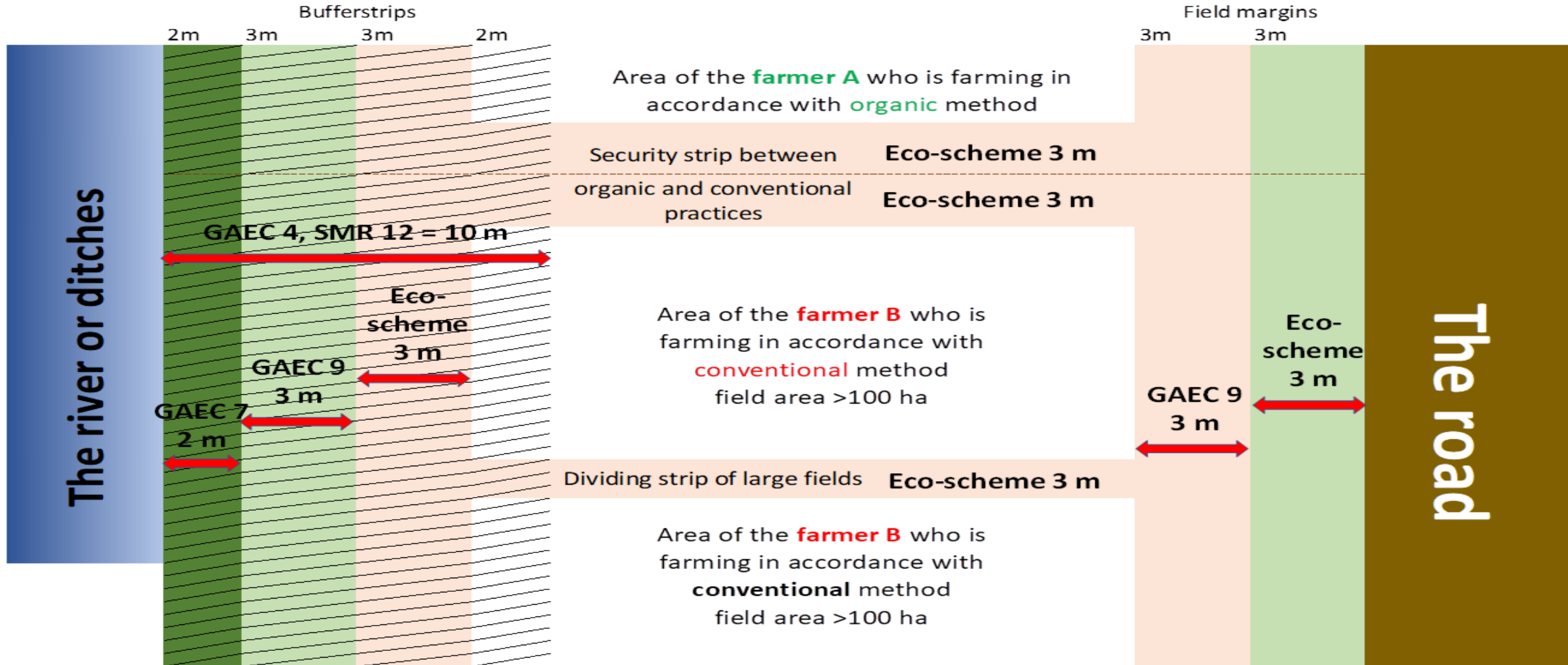


Planned interventions		Objectives						
		Climate (GHG or LULUCF)	Air (Ammonia)	Water	Soil	Biodiversity	Landscape	Food safety/ quality
ECO-schemes (Pillar I)	<b>Ecologically valuable arable land</b> - (for reducing GHG emissions, pollution, improving soils etc.) – 3 to 5% (in addition to 5% under GAEC 9) of the arable land is managed without plant protection products and used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrogen fixing crops (single crops or mixtures, including wit grass);</li> <li>Catch crops;</li> <li>Underseeded grass;</li> <li>Green fallow.</li> </ul>	2		2	2	1	1	1
	<b>Facilitation of organic farming practices</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	<b>4 m wide green buffer strips</b> , field margins, strips dividing large parcels >150 ha, safety strips between organic and conventional parcels. Beyond bufferstrips provided under under GAEC 4, GAEC 7, GAEC 9 and SMR 12.	1		2	2	1	1	1

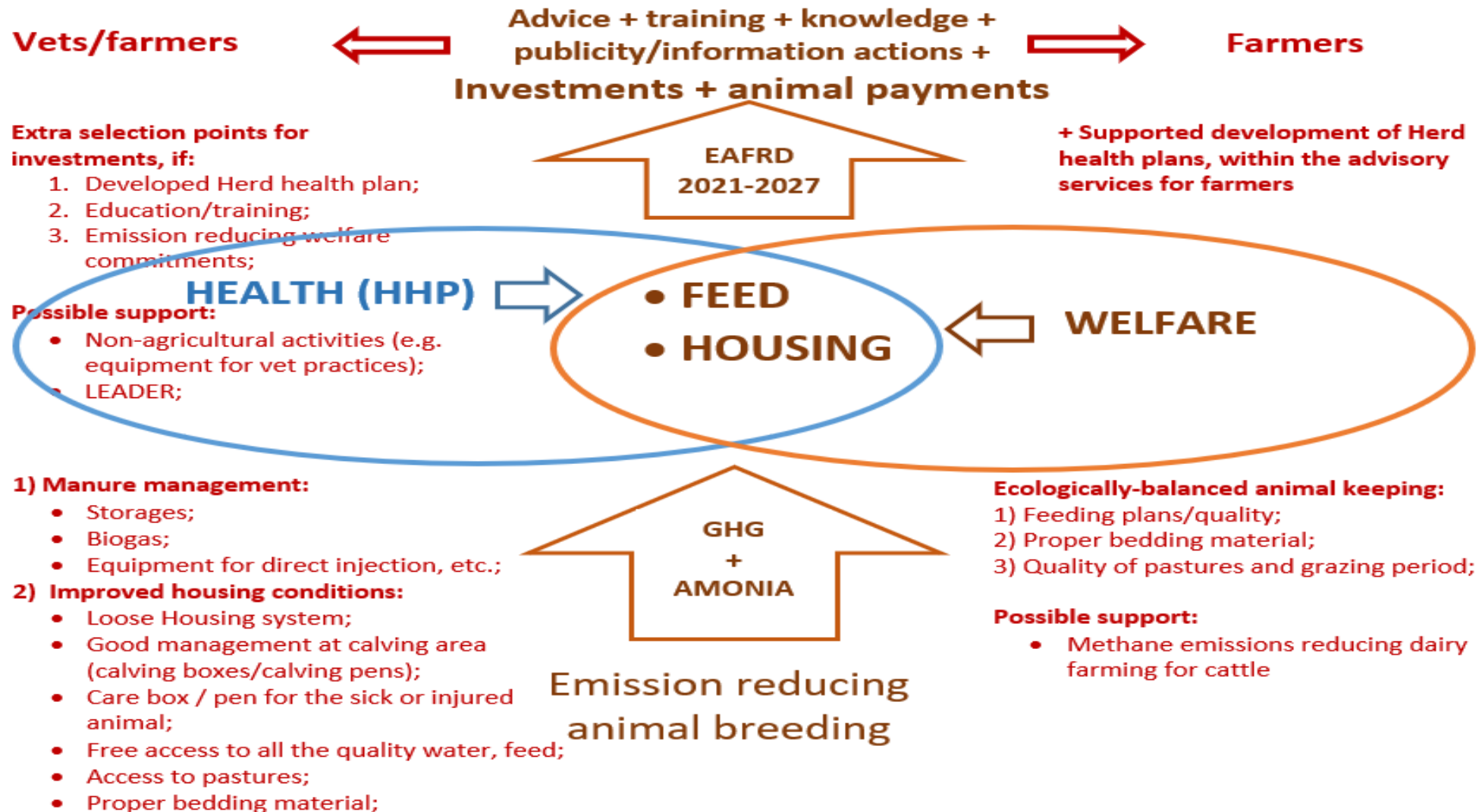
Planned interventions		Objective						
		Climate (GHG or LULUCF)	Air (Ammonia)	Water	Soil	Biodiversity	Landscape	Food safety/ quality
Rural development measures (Pillar II)	Maintenance of biodiversity in grasslands (including grasslands in organic farms)	1		2	1	2	2	
	Maintenance of bird habitats – in grasslands	1		2	1	2	2	
	Environmentally friendly crop production – set of requirements facilitating reducing of pollution (including reduction of GHG emissions, etc.)	1	1	2	2			1
	Environmentally friendly horticulture - set of requirements facilitating reducing of pollution (including reduction of GHG emissions, etc.)	2		1	1			1
	Environmentally friendly animal breeding (cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep/goats): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeding and welfare;</li> <li>Access to pastures/outdoor paddocks;</li> <li>Reduced usage of antimicrobials.</li> </ul>	2	2					2
	Organic farming (including dairy and beef production, apiculture) – specific requirements to improve soil quality, agrochemical analysis, green manure, nitrogen fixing crops	1	1	2	2			2
	NATURA 2000: maintenance of forest areas with area-specific disadvantages	1		1	1	2	1	
	Replacement/maintenance of non-productive forest stands	2						



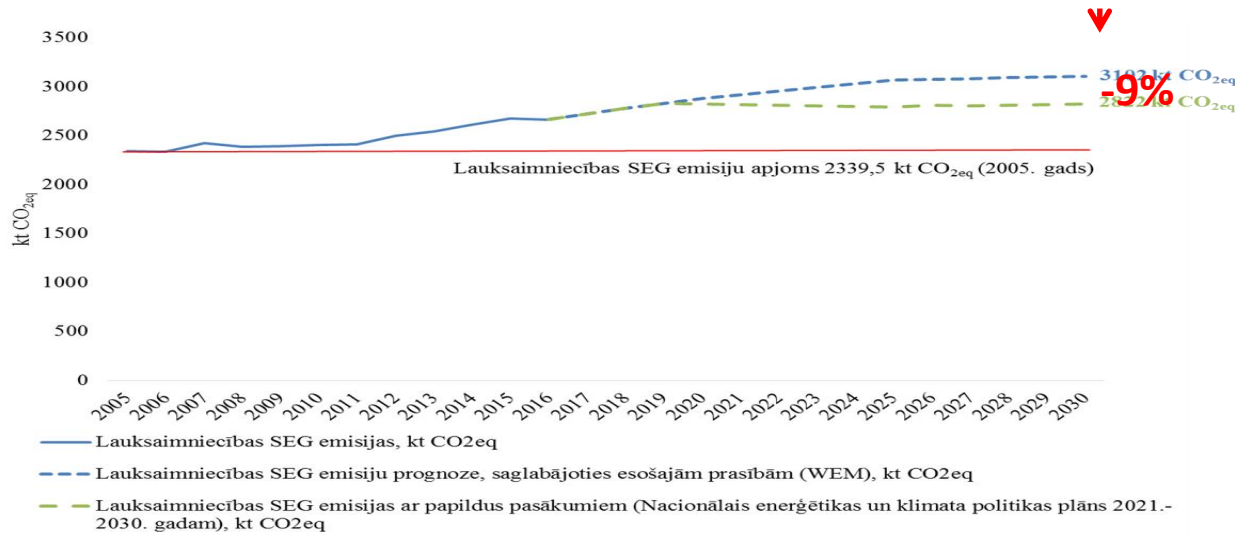
# Buffer strips



# CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE IN REDUCTION OF GHG AND AMONIA EMISSIONS until 2030



# Environmentally friendly animal breeding – emission reducing animal breeding



All the cost effective measures to be implemented in order to facilitate simultaneous reduction of both emissions (win-win)

## Measures of agriculture included in the National energy and climate plan 2030 for reduction of GHG and ammonia emissions:

- Precision farming (application of fertilizers)
- Direct injection of organic fertilizers
- Separation of slurry;
- Planning of precise feed quantity;
- Improvement of feed quality;
- Maintenance of drainage systems;
- Planning of fertilizing;
- Facilitation of biogas production;
- Nitrogen fixing crops as a part of crop rotation.

## Cost-effective measures applicable only to reduction of ammonia emissions

- Covering of slurry storage facilities;
- Replacement of lagoons with cylindrical storages;
- Reduced timing of manure incorporation (trailing hose and injection spreading)
- Facilitating of organic dairy farming.



# Grassland measures – Maintenance of biological diversity in grasslands

Previous measure	New proposal (MoA)	Environmental NGOs position
4 classes - EU habitats	4 classes - EU habitats (+ 9070) + bird grasslands	Support
1 ha, min area 0.3 ha	1 ha, min area 0.1 ha	Strong support
Farmers, other land manager	Farmers, other land manager, collective applications	Support
Payment differentiated by 4 classes of productivity	Payment differentiated by productivity (4 classes + bird grasslands) and derogations, if prescribed by Nature Conservation Agency (NCA)	
No support for investments	Non-productive investments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration in NCA defined target areas</li> <li>• Specific machinery</li> <li>• Grazing infrastructure (no support for animals)</li> </ul>	Strong support



# Grassland measures – Maintenance of bird habitats in grasslands (NEW measure based on proposal of Latvian Ornithological Society)

**Corncrake,  
great snipe,  
ducks,  
waders,  
yellow wagtail,  
lesser-spotted eagle**  
(grassland areas from NCA database)

- 1 ha, min area 0.1 ha;
- Farmer, other land manager, collective applications;
- Payment differentiated by requirements.





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# Current challenges and open questions: MoA

- How to plan really targeted actions for each of the habitat groups so that they can be easily checked and understood by the supervising authorities?
- How to balance the requirements to be met with the available “support envelope”?
- How to encourage collective applications?
- How to help with knowledge and understanding of owners on the management of habitats?
- What needs to be done in order to ensure a targeted improvement of the status of habitats in the country and reflected in the reports of the Directives?



# Current challenges and open questions: ENVI NGOs

- The main environmental challenges are mentioned in the SWOT and the measures, that target these issues have improved during the process...
- How to maintain the payment levels for nature targeted measures on competitive level (previous reductions reasoned by fear on overcompensation, but the target areas are not reached...)?
- «Flexibility» of the planning/implementation process to reach the agreed targets – until now the target areas have been «downscaled» to meet the actual figures.
- Monitoring?



# Thank you

grasslife

